

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 419

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTING ON COMMENTS BY CONGRESSMAN GOODLING
ON TIMOR

REF: CANBERRA 2481 (NOTAL)

1. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM INDONESIA, CONGRESSMAN
GOODLING WAS INTERVIEWED BY A REPORTER FROM THE RESPECTED
JAKARTA DAILY, KOMPAS. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE
KOMPAS VERSION OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S REMARKS ON EAST TIMOR.

2. ACCORDING TO KOMPAS, CONGRESSMAN GOODLING SUGGESTED
THAT INDONESIAN INTERVENTION "THREE MONTHS EARLIER"
WOULD HAVE PREVENTED MUCH OF THE BLOODSHED WHICH OCCURRED
DURING AUGUST-DECEMBER 1975. HE ALSO CITED A "MAJOR
DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN THE "ATROCITIES" OF THE INDONESIANS,
WHICH HE SAID WERE ISOLATED MISDEEDS OF LOW RANKING
SOLDIERS, AND THOSE OF FRETELIN, WHICH WERE SANCTIONED
BY THE FRETELIN LEADERSHIP AS A MATTER OF POLICY.

3. CONGRESSMAN GOODLING TERMED THE INTEGRATION OF THE
FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY INTO INDONESIA QTE THE BEST
THING FOR THE POPULATION OF EAST TIMOR, BECAUSE EAST
TIMOR WAS NOT ABLE TO STAND ALONE END QTE. WHAT IS
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IMPORTANT FOR THE TIMORESE, ACCORDING TO THE CONGRESSMAN,
IS TO QTE HEAL THE WOUNDS OF THE WAR AND MOVE THE
ECONOMY FORWARD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE END QTE. THE
U.S. CONGRESS WOULD DO BETTER TO ASSIST IN THIS RECON-
STRUCTION, SAID GOODLING, THAN "DISCUSS ANCIENT HISTORY."
HE ALSO SAID HIS "DIRECT DISCUSSIONS" WITH THE CHINESE
COMMUNITY IN TIMOR REVEALED NO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST

THEM OR SPECIAL COMMUNAL TENSION.

4. GOODLING SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE INDONESIANS TRIED TO USE EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER SOURCES IN TIMOR IN PREFERENCE TO U.S. MILITARY AID, ALTHOUGH GOI OFFICIALS FRANKLY ADMITTED SOME U.S. EQUIPMENT WAS USED. HE SAID HIS OBSERVATIONS OF TIMOR, FROM THE GROUND AND AIR, DID NOT REVEAL ANY MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OR SUPPORT ANY CLAIMS THAT NAPALM WAS USED BY INDONESIAN FORCES. NOR DID THE CONGRESSMAN NOTE ANY UNUSUAL SECURITY IN FORCE, ALTHOUGH HE WAS MET BY LARGE CROWDS AT SEVERAL OF HIS STOPS IN ISOLATED AREAS. HE EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT OTHER U.S. OBSERVERS WOULD COME TO TIMOR AND SEE, AS HE HAD, THE REAL SITUATION THERE.

5. REPRESENTATIVE GOODLING LEFT JAKARTA BEFORE PUBLICA-TION OF ABOVE AND WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE ACCURACY OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM.

6. CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER, GOVERNOR MEYNER AND HIRC STAFF MEMBERS WILL VISIT TIMOR APRIL 15 AND 16.

7. RE REFTEL AMBASSADOR AND HOLBROOKE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS TIMOR IN BRIEFING HE WILL GIVE TO SPARKMAN DELEGATION.
NEWSOM

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